

Amendments to the Specifications:

Please delete the first paragraph after the DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION on page 3 and replace it with the following paragraph resubmitted herewith:

Referring to figures 1, 2 and 3, the dispenser of the present invention is shown generally at 30. Dispenser 30 has three stages or feed assemblies, namely the first stage or feed assembly 32, the second stage or feed assembly 34 and the third stage or feed assembly 36.

Please delete the first paragraph on page 4 and replace it with the following paragraph resubmitted herewith:

The drive mechanism starts at the main drive motor 4, with a belt drive 5, to the lower splined drive shaft 17. First and second stage splined drive shaft 17 is connected to the upper splined shaft 22, by means of a 1:1 belt drive 6. Belt drive 6 is also coupled to the feed belt drive shaft 20. Drive shaft 20, in turn, drives the feed belt drive pulley 3, which drives the feed belt 1. The drive belt 6 drives the upper product drive belts 11 of the first stage at the same speed as the lower product drive belts 12 of the first stage 32, but there is a step down to the feed belt drive shaft 20. This step down and the differing pulley sizes creates an increase in speed from the feed belt 1 and thus the speed of the first stage assembly. This speed up of belt speeds creates a larger gap between the products 10.

Please delete the paragraph that starts at the bottom of page 4 and continues to the top of page 5 and replace it with the following paragraph resubmitted herewith:

The photocells 25, 26 located in the third stage of the dispenser are used

to monitor the position of each product and to adjust the speed of drive motor 4, to dispense the products into the gaps of the subsequent conveyor or as required by the products on the subsequent conveyor 38. The first photocell 25 detects the presence of the product in the third stage and together with the second photocell 26 the gap between products is determined. The speed of the drive motor is adjusted up or down if the gap is smaller or larger than a predetermined preferred gap size.